

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION**

Minutes of the Meeting

Date, Time, Place: March 19, 2004, 10:30 a.m.
 Department of Transportation Services Conference Room
 650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Voting Members present:
 Ho'opono, Dave Eveland
 Adult Day Care Centers of Hawaii, Helen Meyers
 Catholic Charities Elderly Service, Tom Baty

Ex-Officio Members present:
 Department of Transportation Services, Paul Romaine, James Burke, Alvina Kubo
 Fixed Route and Paratransit Services Contractor, Art Loebel
 State Department of Health, Michael Tamanaha
 Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization, Michelle Kurisu

Voting Member(s) excused:
 Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Ann Collins

Voting Members unexcused:
 Lanakila Rehabilitation Center
 Hawaii Centers for Independent Living
 Easter Seals Hawaii
 The ARC in Hawaii
 Kokua Program, U.H. at Manoa

Ex-Officio Members unexcused:
 Disability and Communication Access Board
 Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities
 State Department of Transportation
 Honolulu Committee on Aging

Guest(s): Patricia Blum, Eye of the Pacific
 Morris Nakamura, HV Rider
 Michael Nakamura, HV Rider
 Dennis Russak, Honolulu Chapter, National Federation of the Blind

1. Chairperson Dave Eveland called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
2. Attendees introduced themselves.

3. The Minutes of the May 9, 2003, meeting were approved.

4. Discussion on forming subcommittee to address riders' concerns:

J. Burke gave background; CAT likes to keep tabs on how TheBus and TheHandi-Van is operating, but CAT is advisory/policy; therefore the idea is to form a subcommittee. In the past concerns were brought up at the end of the formal meeting.

Morris Nakamura expressed desire to have a subcommittee, as other avenues tried did not work. This would have positive impact in resolving issues.

J. Burke stated that a subcommittee might make more sense so it will not take all the time and become a complaint committee. CAT must concentrate on other policy or advisory issues for both TheBus and TheHandi-Van.

H. Meyers agreed that creating a subcommittee was a good idea and asked whether concerns brought up at future meetings would be referred to the subcommittee.

T. Baty had concerns about who would staff the committee, how often would you meet, possibly creating another layer.

J. Burke indicated that the subcommittee would be appointed by the Chair, and could meet anywhere, need not have members of the CAT on it, can meet as often as they feel necessary and then bring appropriate concerns to the CAT. The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will post meeting dates/time/place, however, DTS staff may not be able to make every meeting to take minutes (this can be done by members of the committee).

Chair indicated this might be a good coordinated effort and subcommittee could bring issues to the CAT on a regular basis.

Michael Nakamura questioned the effectiveness of CAT to produce results on complaints brought up in the past. It was explained that the CAT is an advisory/policy committee; therefore, a subcommittee would be able to resolve the complaints directly with Oahu Transit Services, Inc. (OTS) and bring up policy issues to the CAT.

H. Meyers moved to form subcommittee; no second so issue tabled until next meeting when voting members are present.

M. Kurisu suggested that Morris Nakamura start a group now to gather information/concerns and that all this information can become part of the formal committee later once CAT makes a decision. J. Burke will have a discussion with M. Nakamura after the meeting about forming something outside of the CAT, but still be connected.

Michael Nakamura is very happy with the service, but he is here to speak for others who are victimized/abused due to not being able to speak out for themselves or for those who

have given up due nothing being done. He questioned what the CAT could do, if anything to help with these problems.

M. Tamanaha asked if there were any other avenues riders could pursue that are working or have worked in the past (i.e. surveys, discussion groups, forums, etc.). J. Burke responded no and that there has not been anything recently. We have put money in the budget for a survey (unknown if approved or not). However, we will discuss this with Mr. Nakamura after the meeting.

5. Title VI – J. Burke read (attached) Draft Performance & Service Standards & Policies for Title VI. This was distributed for review and comment by CAT.

6. New Business/Announcements

Transit Access Report February 10, 2004, article regarding ADA regulations supporting rear facing position (rail) for wheelchairs and announcing stops, was distributed for information.

J. Burke announced:

1. The operating budget (139 million) has been submitted and we are waiting for City Council's response.
2. Since the strike ridership is down about 10%.
3. Paul Steffens, Chief of Public Transit Division is retiring effective May 1, 2004.

Meetings have been annually pre-set: 2nd Friday of each month (unless it's a holiday, then postponed until the following Friday) January, April, July, October (at a minimum).

D. Russak brought up a concern regarding the new buses having a problem; no announcements. James will check and get back to Chair Dave Eveland, who will inform D. Russak of findings.

The next meeting is scheduled for **April 16, 2004** (Friday, April 9, 2004 is a holiday). The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.